

REMARKS

Claims in the Application. Claims 1, 9, 15 and 18 have been amended. Claims 1-20 are active in this application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Examiner's Rejection of the Claims under 35 USC § 102(e). The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-20 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,793,018 ("*Dawson*") and US Patent No. 7,036,690 ("*Harris*"). This ground of rejection is traversed.

The claims of Applicants are directed to a method of forming a blocking gel within a wellbore within a subterranean formation by use of a crosslinkable fluid containing carboxymethyl guar (CMG) and a crosslinking agent. Col. 5 line 15 - col. 6, line 55 and Table 1 of *Dawson*, relied upon by the Examiner, does not disclose the claimed invention of Applicants. These passages are directed to the use of a fracturing fluid which contains a hydratable polymer and a crosslinking agent. The claims of Applicants recite forming a blocking gel or barrier within the formation. Such gels may be used to protect the production zone as well as the non-productive or thief zone. See, for example p. 1, ll. 19-22 as well as p. 8, ll. 18-23 of the originally filed specification of Applicants. Applicants do not claim a method of fracturing. Fracturing is a distinct method from the claimed method directed to the formation of a blocking gel or barrier within a formation. The Examiner is respectfully requested therefore to withdraw the rejection of the claims of Applicants over *Dawson*.

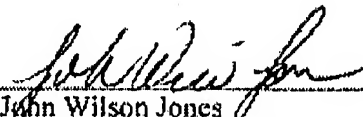
Harris, like U.S. Patent No. 5,210,370 ("*Tjon-Joe-Pin*"), cited in the last Office Action, is directed to a method of fracturing. In *Harris*, a two stage fracturing process is disclosed wherein the "first stage fluid" contains a gel breaker which creates or extends a fracture. The "second stage fluid" containing proppant in a viscous liquid is then introduced into the fracture. There is no disclosure in *Harris* of pumping crosslinkable gel or gelled crosslinkable fluid into the formation and forming a blocking gel or barrier within the formation. The method claimed by Applicants is not disclosed in *Harris*. The rejection of the claims over *Harris* should therefore not be maintained. Reconsideration is requested.

Citation of References. Applicants submitted a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement on September 12, 2006, a copy of which is attached. The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge her consideration of the cited references.

Conclusions. In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

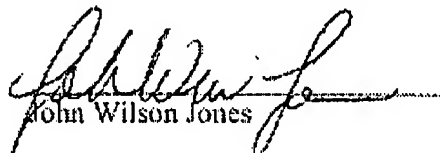
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John Wilson Jones
Registration No. 31,380

JONES & SMITH, LLP
2777 Allen Parkway, Suite 800
Houston, Texas 77019
Telephone No.: (713) 528-3100
Facsimile No.: (713) 893-6076

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION, 37 C.F.R. § 1.6(d)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 via facsimile, (571) 273-8300 on this the 30th day of April 2007.


John Wilson Jones